

Warm-up: Revise and Edit

Directions: Revise and edit the following selection using proofreader's marks. Be sure to give recommendations and correct errors.

Car-dny

This middle aged man was on his way to his buddy's house. He took the back roads like his buddy had told him, on the way there his car started acting up. The only thing that were on were the headlights and engin. All of a sudden the wipers, horn, and alarm start turning on, with no help from the man, he just kept an driving to his friends house. When he was half way down this old dirt road something went terribly wrong. He felt as something had been watching him all day long but he never really cared or noticed anything out of the ordinary.

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The man finally arrived at his friends house but when he did he was not just a man he had not realized it before though. The thing watching him all day, the thing he did not notice or did not care about. Well maybe I should wait and tell you...

He was almost struggling to get there with that awful ring in his ear or was it in his ear? I did say he made it, oh yah he made it but his so called "buddies" weren't there in fact the road did not even lead to his buddy's house no it lead straight for misery. Not a place nor thing but it can and will kill anything.

Anyway the man stumbles up the crooked steps, BAM...BAM...BAM... he knocks on the door with his fist. The door cracks open and he screams, "hey Rodney where are you man?"

This deep and mysterious voice growles, "there is no Rodney here."

1. Which of the following would be the BEST way to write the 2nd sentence?

- A. He took the backroads like his buddy had told him, on the way there his car started acting up.
- B. He took the back roads like his buddy had told him. On the way there, his car started acting up.
- C. He took the back roads like his buddy had told him, but on the way there, his car started acting up.
- D. He took the back roads like his buddy had told him, on the way there, his car started acting up.
- E. He took the back roads like his buddy had told him because on the way there his car started acting up.
- F. Nothing needs to be changed.

2. What type of error is in the following sentence from paragraph 2?

The only thing that were on were the headlights and engine.

- A. pronoun/antecedent agreement error
- B. capitalization error
- C. spelling error
- D. subject/verb agreement error
- E. verb tense shift error

3. Combine the following sentences from the 2nd paragraph effectively into ONE sentence:

This middle aged man was on his way to his buddy's house. He took the back roads like his buddy had told him, on the way there his car started acting up.

4. While this writer is good with plot and surprise endings, what is one specific thing they could do to improve his or her efforts toward building suspense?